

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 14821 131102Z

21 11
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01

DRC-01 /144 W
----- 109711

R 131016Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
RO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8139
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL NAHA
USFJ FUCHU JAPAN
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 14821

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, JA, KS
SUBJECT: LABOR MINISTRY DROPS PLAN TO IMPORT KOREAN WORKERS

REF: TOKYO 14556

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. SCHEME OF IMPORTING KOREANS TO WORK ON EXPO '75 CONSTRUCTION IN OKINAWA APPARENTLY DIED ABORNING. LABOR MINISTER KATO, WHO ORIGINALLY ENDORSED IDEA (REFTEL) NOW FIRMLY OPPOSED. NO LABOR EXPERT, KATO WAS FORCED TO ABOUTFACE WHEN CONFRONTED BY UNIONS' ADAMANT OPPOSITION AND BY STRONG ADVACE AGAINST PROPOSAL FROM WITHIN MOL. IN MEETING WITH SOHYO LABOR CONFEDERATION PRESIDENT ICHIKAWA, KATO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT EVEN IF SO REQUESTED BY PRIME MIN TANAKA, HIS MINISTRY QTE WILL NOT CAHNGE ITS POSITION OF REFUSING TO ALLOW FOREIGN WORKERS INTO JAPAN. UNQTE INSTEAD MOL STUDYING WAYS OF SOLVING OKINAWA'S LABOR SHORTAGE FROM DOMESTIC LABOR MARKET.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 14821 131102Z

2. COMMENT: KATO'S QUICK SWITCH PREVENTED PROBABLE
OPPOSITION PARTY ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS LDP OVER ISSUE: BUT IT
LEAVES OKINAWA'S LABOR SHORTAGE PROBLEM
UNRESOLVED. RESOLUTION WILL NOT BE EASY. JAPANESE WORKERS,
ESPECIALLY IN MORE SKILLED TRADES, NOT AS MOBILE AS U.S.
LABOR FORCE. FURTHERMORE WITH NATIONWIDE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
AT ONLY 1.2 PERCENT AND JOB OPENINGS EXCEEDING JOB APPLICANTS
IN NATION'S EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES, WORKERS WOULD ONLY BE LURED
BY LARGE SPECIAL ALLOWANCES ON TOP OF QTE MAINLAND JAPAN UNQTE
WAGE RATES -- WHICH ARE SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN THOSE PAID IN
OKINAWA. PRESENCE OF SUCH PRIVILEGED GROUP COULD EITHER
(A) FORCE UP OKINAWAN WAGES THREATENING ITS ECONOMY, OR (B)
TRIGGER LABOR UNREST. SHOESMITH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMPLOYMENT, CONSTRUCTION, FOREIGN RELATIONS, EXPO 75, LABOR FORCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO14821
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731136/aaaabadf.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOKYO 14556
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Nov-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <19-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR MINISTRY DROPS PLAN TO IMPORT KOREAN WORKERS
TAGS: ELAB, JA, KS, YQ
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005